



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUIK STOP OWNER SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METH INGREDIENTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the owner of a local convenience store was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring with his business partner and others to distribute large quantities of an ingredient used to manufacture methamphetamine. The partners used shoplifters to provide them with pseudoephedrine tablets, Graves said, which they in turn sold to meth cooks at a substantial profit.

Eiad M. Musallet, 27, of Olathe, Kan., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to five years in federal prison without parole.

On May 20, 2003, **Musallet** and **Rady I. Sdoulam**, 34, of Kansas City, Mo., were each found guilty of conspiring to distribute pseudoephedrine, having reasonable cause to believe that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. **Sdoulam** and **Musallet** were also each found guilty on separate counts of distributing pseudoephedrine to an undercover officer, believing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Sdoulam was sentenced on Nov. 25, 2003, to nine years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Sdoulam** to forfeit to the United States a 1994 Ford min-van that was used in the commission of the conspiracy.

Musallet and **Sdoulam** operated the Quik Stop Convenience Store located at 4039 Metropolitan Avenue in Kansas City, Kan. **Musallet** also operated the Quik Stop Convenience Store located at 5620 Longview Road in Grandview, Mo. **Musallet** and **Sdoulam** are of Palestinian descent and have been in the United States for several years. **Musallet** is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

According to Graves, the defendants were involved for several months in a continuing

conspiracy to distribute large quantities of stolen pseudoephedrine tablets, from which **Musallet** and **Sdoulam** gained substantial profits.

Musallet and **Sdoulam** commissioned shoplifters to provide them with large quantities of free, stolen over-the-counter cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine, Graves said, then sold large quantities of these products to local meth cooks and to undercover officers they believed were meth cooks.

A cooperating witness and an undercover police officer, posing as a meth cook, purchased hundreds of boxes – containing thousands of pseudoephedrine tablets – from **Musallet** and **Sdoulam** between August 2001, and April 2002. In conversations recorded during some of these purchases, Graves said, the undercover officer told **Musallet** and **Sdoulam** that he was using the tablets to make meth.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, **Musallet** was also found guilty of distributing pseudoephedrine on Aug. 1, 2001. An undercover officer of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation purchased 82 boxes of pseudoephedrine tablets – Good Sense brand nasal decongestant tablets – from **Musallet** at the Grandview Quik Stop.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, **Sdoulam** was also found guilty of distributing pseudoephedrine to an undercover officer on March 21, 2001. **Sdoulam** met the undercover officer in the parking lot of the Home Depot store in Independence, where he sold the officer – whom he believed to be a meth cook – 36 boxes containing 1,440 pills.

Musallet and **Sdoulam** were charged in a federal indictment returned by the grand jury on May 29, 2002. Co-defendant **Nancy E. Queen**, 40, of Prairie Village, Kan., pleaded guilty to her role in the conspiracy and testified during the trial. On June 25, 2003, **Queen** was sentenced to the time she had already served in federal custody, about 14 months.

Queen admitted that she was a shoplifter among those supplying stolen pseudoephedrine, as well as stolen cigarettes, to the Quik Stop stores.

According to Graves, police officers from the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department were dispatched to the Target Superstore at 12200 Blue Valley Parkway in Overland Park, Kan., regarding shoplifting incident on the evening of Dec. 26, 2001. **Queen** had been detained after trying to shoplift 13 boxes of pseudoephedrine tablets. A police officer also found 46 boxes of various pseudoephedrine products in **Queen's** vehicle, which was in the parking lot.

Queen testified that she had been stealing cigarettes and pseudoephedrine and selling them to **Musallet**. **Queen** sold between 100 to 150 boxes per week of pseudoephedrine cold tablets to **Musallet** over a three-month period.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, the Bonner Springs, Kan., Police Department, and the Johnson County, Kan.

Sheriff's Office, as well as the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow